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PP RUEHAG RUEHROV RUEHSL RUEHSR
DE RUEHBS #1399/01 2931334
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 201334Z OCT 09
FM USEU BRUSSELS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHOR/AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
RUEHSB/AMEMBASSY HARARE PRIORITY
RUEHLS/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
RUEHTO/AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
RUEHWD/AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK PRIORITY

Tuesday, 20 October 2009, 13:34
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BRUSSELS 001399
SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 09/20/2019

TAGS PREL, ETRD, ZU, EU

SUBJECT: EU COMMISSIONER DE GUCHT'S TRIP TO ZIMBABWE

Classified By: USEU Charge d'Affaires Christopher Murray, for reasons 1 .4(b) and (d)

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: The EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Karel de Gucht, along with the Swedish International Development (C) ATMOSPHERICS:

2. (SBU) The EU delegation saw the visit as a success because it drew media attention back onto Zimbabwe. This was the first high-level EU visit MEETING WITH MUGABE

3. (C) President Robert Mugabe was willing to engage, which the delegation took as a positive, but not willing to give an inch. Mugabe acknowledged. (C) The delegation expressed concern about slow reforms, the status of the GPA, and continuing political violence. Mugabe resisted it all.

5. (C) Throughout, Mugabe was a superb debater, always looking for proof and asking his underlings regarding details. (NOTE: Clancy advised it

6. (C) Mugabe stated that land reform was an irreversible decision. He said he was not completely against some kind of land ownership system, BRUSSELS 00001399 002 OF 004

financial and human resources. The direct implication was that unless donors provide the resources, the GOZ is not going to do it. (NOTE: In a IMPRESSIONS OF MUGABE

7. (C) Our EU interlocutors said Mugabe appeared physically fit, mentally sharp, and "charming." When asked if his position had either weakened 8. (C) In both meetings with our EU interlocutors, they told the same illustrative anecdote: during the delegation's meeting with Mugabe, a st

MEETING WITH TSVANGIRAI: CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

9. (C) The delegation then went to Bulawayo and met with Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and separately with Minister of Education David Colt

10. (C) Tsvangirai discussed political harassment, particularly the serious accusations against Roy Bennett. The fact that he is "white" matte

11. (C) As for priorities, he highlighted that the MDC heads all the ministries that promote the population's well-being, such as education, h MEETING WITH MUTAMBARA

12. (C) Deputy Prime Minister Mutambara impressed Amorim as being "very sharp, young, engaging, and very, very dangerous." Arnould said Mutambara BRUSSELS 00001399 003 OF 004

speech to the press about the importance of his faction in the government, and the imperative to lift sanctions. Mutambara was livid that the U MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN AND JUSTICE MINISTERS, CIVIL SOCIETY

13. (C) Back in Harare on Sunday morning, the delegation also met with Foreign Minister Samuel Mumbengegwi and Justice Minister Patrick Chinan

14. (C) In meetings with Civil Society leaders, they talked of continued violence in the rural areas by ZANU-PF, but also by MDC. In urban are SANCTIONS

15 (C) Sanctions were discussed in all meetings with government officials. Mugabe portrayed the West as unfairly targeting people in the Unity 16. (C) Out of the three, Mutambara spoke the most about sanctions and claimed they only help Mugabe. Without sanctions, he said, the GPA could

17. (C) The Zimbabwean Ministers said the African Union and SADC have asked that the sanctions be lifted, so "why don't you listen to them?" M BRUSSELS 00001399 004 OF 004

(Amorim's words), the Ministers gave a very legalistic response ending with, "the Tribunal does not exist." WHAT'S NEXT?

18. (C) Arnould stated that ZANU-PF is rebuilding and needs money, but time is on their side. (She mentioned ZANU-PF has an arrangement with t

19. (C) In response to Prime Minister Tsvangirai's 16 October remarks on the lack of political progress in Zimbabwe, Commissioner de Gucht iss MURRAY .